Wireless Association of South Hills

www.n3sh.org www.washrag.info

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2007



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

# FCC: No Code Test

See FCC News Page 9, Article Page 7

# 2 Meter Contest This Month Presidential Words

A few short days after you receive this newsletter, the Saturday after our monthly meeting night, brings about the Seventh Annual WASH 2 METER SIMPLEX CONTEST!

For a variety of reasons, there wasn't as much pre-contest publicity about the contest this year as in years past, so try and talk up the contest the next few days on area repeaters and with your friends in other area clubs. A lot of people enjoy operating every year... it would be a shame for them to say "it was last weekend? You mean I missed it this year?"

Originally just an FM mode contest, the last few years have included SSB & CW modes for those with the capabilities. It's actually guite a simple event; for 4 short hours on a Saturday evening in the middle of January, try and work as many other stations as you can on 2 meter simplex!

The fun comes into play in trying to work the stations with the most point value. Contacts with non-club members are worth 1 point, club members are worth 2 points (why not, it's our contest!), and contacts with club stations — any club station, not just N3SH, WA3SH or NP2SH — are worth 3 points. Multiply that by the number of different ZIP codes you work, throw in a power multiplier if you're running HT level power, and that's pretty much it! Oh yes, you work anyone you can, once per mode. (How far can you work on 2 meter simplex? Well, that's the challenge, isn't it?)

There are no major changes to the rules this year. We've tried to clarify once and for all our position on the "shared use" simplex/repeater frequencies that are unoccupied by repeaters, and logs now got to W3WN at his new QTH. Otherwise, if you've operated in the contest the last few years, you're set to go. If you haven't, consider giving it a try this year!

Complete rules are on Page 6, and a PDF file containing the rules, log sheets, entry forms, and some Frequently Asked Questions can now be downloaded from the club web site at www.n3sh.org.

# WASHFest 2007 One Month Away!

# Next Meeting: January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be Thursday, January 11th, at the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

WASHFest 2007, the upcoming 2 Meter Contest, and the Tower Trailer project (Phase II) will be amongst the topics of the evening.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 443.650(+) N3FB/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

Thank you to all for electing me your new President

for 2007! I would first like to begin by thanking Kevin N3HKQ for a great 2 years in leadership. It will be hard filling your shoes, but I will do my very best.

This year I hope it to be a fun one. I have a lot of thoughts, wishes and goals for our club. I would like to bring more activities to the table. including:



- Getting more involved with the local communities
- And do more contests together.

We have a lot to live up to from last year. Last year we did a fantastic job during the 2006 PA QSO party. We, I believe, surpassed previous clubs in locations, points, QSO's and dedication. We came together, organized a plan and drove it to the end. Field Day 2006 was exciting too. Simply put: Two locations, twice the fun.

This is the spirit I would like to bring to the club this year: more involvement. I believe the members are what make this club a great one. This year marks the year that the FCC has bowed down and accepted the

(Presidential Words Continued on page 2)

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### Presidential Words (continued from Page 1)

public plea. They have dropped the Element 1 Morse code requirement for all HF license classes. What does this mean? It means that it's time for us to do some PR for Ham Radio. We need to preserve our club for future years and recruit new members, not only into our club, but into this hobby. Now is the time to make this happen. New Members are recruited by activities, not by club meetings.

Hop on the back of the truck, and let's go for a ride!

This year I would like to do some if not all of the following activities:

- Scheduled Elmer nights. Lets help potential members or new members out with their questions.
- More club contests. More organized events. Do some other states QSO parties and such, like the US Island contest we used to do.
- Does our club have WAS or DXCC under the N3SH/WA3SH banner? There is no reason we couldn't.
- An HF Net -- we have a weekly FM net for a half of an hour, why not an HF Net? Is it time to revive the Digital Net?
- More Public Service Events (more helps with walks, run, ARES / RACES events etc..)
- Swap Meets: Maybe have a small mini-WASH Fest, somewhere between the Breezshooters and WACOM hamfests. With the Butler Hamfest going away it won't leave us many options.
- Fox Hunts: Never done this, sound like fun!
- Mobile Outings: Get a few mobile guys together for a night on the town making QSOs for the club or maybe work a contest.
- JOTA: We've done it on occasion, or individually, so why not as a regular annual club event?
- Boy Scout Merit Badges: A lot of other clubs doe this, why cant we?
- Reach out to schools: A lot of other clubs doe this, why cant we?
- Activities night: A lot of other clubs doe this, why cant we again (we used to)?

I would like to accomplish even some of these items. Maybe not all, but the more fun we have, the more people will keep coming. How do we accomplish these goals? We need to start an Activities Committee, a Contesting Committee and a Public Service Committee. Right now we have members that report when there are things to do. We need to find things to do and then set them up and do them.

The Club Affiliated Repeaters: This year I would like to see a few members get involved with helping our local repeaters. I know that Frank N3FB and myself could really use some help this year on continuing to bring the N3FB Repeater shack up to par. There are still a few repairs that need to be done, and I don't think it is much to ask for help. We use this repeater each and every day, and in the event of an emergency, it will be there for our use. And Pete N3RNX & Steve W3SRL sometimes need a hand with the Mt. Lebanon repeaters, too. I know the repeaters we use are the responsibility of their respected owners, but since we use them, we should help with the up keep.

This may be a lot, but if other small clubs can do it, SO CAN WE...

On another note, our Tower has arrived. It maybe still officially be "lost in transit" according to Roadway Express, but we have it. Our trailer should be available shortly. We need to get our heads and our pocket books together and finish this project. There is no reason why we can finish it well before Field Day. Remember, even though we have the tower and the trailer, we still need all of the smaller items. Including safety gear!!

I hope this will be a fun and very productive year for us all. Lets recruit some new members, start some new projects & activities, and plain just have fun doing it!

— 73, Randy George N3ZK

President, Wireless Association of South Hills N3SH WA3SH NP2SH

# WASH 2007 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Randy George N3ZK
VP / Secretary
VP / Treasurer Randy George N3ZK
Frank Bobro KB3FZU
Mark Stabryla N3RDV

### AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

**Activities & Operating Events** 

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee Steve Lane W3SRL
NP2SH Trustee Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH QSL Manager Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
VE Team Liaison Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Webmaster Randy George N3ZK
Quartermaster Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager Kevin Smith N3HKO

WASH FM Net Manager Kevin Smith N3HKQ

WASHFest 2007 Committee Steve Lane W3SRL, Chairman Carol Danko KB3GMN

Bill Hill W3WH Kevin Smith N3HKQ Larry Comden K3VX Ted Huf W4ZE

Ways & Means
Carol Danko KB3GMN
Mobile Tower Project
Paul Lusardi NØVLR
Randy George N3ZK

### CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon N3RNX/R 146.955 MHz (-) PL 131.8 Mt. Lebanon W3SRL/R 442.550 MHz (+) PL 131.8 443.650 MHz (+) Canonsburg N3FB/R PL 131.8 Propagation Beacon St. Johns. VI NP2SH / B 28.276 MHz Canonsburg N3SH 144.390 MHz APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WASH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every

Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

# THE LEGAL STUFF

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. was founded on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1993, as the original South Hills Amateur Radio Club, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the N3SH Amateur Radio Club. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to Glen Roberts KE7FD of The Internet Guild for his assistance in providing space on-line for our website for back issues of "The WASHRag<sup>TM</sup>" which can be found at www.washrag.info

# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

# Next WASH VE Test January 18 th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007. 6:30 PM, at the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: n3zel@fyi.net

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of \$14.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates:

Thursday, July 19th, 2007 Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Thursday, April 19th, 2007

(tentative)

**Tower Trailer Update:** 

As you've probably heard by now. Roadway Express lost the tower. The base arrived on time, but the tower didn't. (How do you lose a 12' x 2' x 3' crate?)

The good news is, the tower did arrive a day late, in excellent condition, and is now safely stored. However, as of deadline... Roadway still doesn't know where it is!

The trailer is due to arrive about the time you get this, so we're ready for Phase III: Assembly, and acquiring the antennas, rotors, cable, coax, and what not!

For up to date information, check out the new club forum at www.n3sh.org/forum

Radio wave propagation could be looking up after this summer, according to past and predicted sunspot and solar (radio) flux statistics from the NOAA Space Environment Center. Those numbers indicate that current Cycle 23 will bottom out in July. As for Cycle 24, which should peak in approximately five years, the predictions are

all over the map, with some saying

it could be one

of the most

intense cycles in

history and

others calling for

a weak or

average cycle.

WASHNet 2007 NCS Schedule

01/07	Dave N3DFK	0
01/14	Bill W3WH	0
01/21	Kevin N3HKQ	0
01/28	Harold K3HCR	0
02/04	Carol KB3GMN	0
	or Richie N3SBF	0
02/11	Michael KB3HFP	0
02/18	Hank KB3FNM	0
02/25	Paul NØVLR	0
03/04	Frank KB3FZU	
03/11	Dave N3DFK	0
03/18	Bill W3WH	0
03/25	Kevin N3HKQ	
04/01	Harold K3HCR	Α
04/08	Carol KB3GMN	

or Richie N3SBF

04/15	Michael KB3HFF
04/22	Hank KB3FNM
04/29	Paul NØVLR
05/06	Frank KB3FZU
05/13	Dave N3DFK
05/20	Bill W3WH
05/27	Kevin N3HKQ
06/03	Harold K3HCR
06/10	Carol KB3GMN
	or Richie N3SBF
06/17	Michael KB3HFF
06/24	Hank KB3FNM

Iternates

Dave N3IDH Ron W3WN

It was the last Saturday in November, only two days afterThanksgiving, and we were all still stuffed with leftovers and worn-out from shopping on Black Friday. Nevertheless, a small but hearty band from the WASH Breakfast Gang descended once again at The Beach House in Finleyville. And now that the notes have been found, we can correctly tell you that the November '06 crew included N3DFK, K3HCR, W3WN, W3WH, and N3KDN (Welcome Steve!). Topics of the morning included medications, short term memory [might explain how Ye Editor misplaced his notes!], job searching, employment tests, risk takiners, HF Verticals and Radials, comparing Ten-Tec's Orion against an Omni VII, Radios from Santa, Antennas & Zoning, neighborhood QRM, vertical antenna mounting and DX Engineering plates!

One month later, the Saturday between Christmas and New Year's, and once again the Gang was there. Our December bunch included W3WH, K3VX, K3HCR, W3VFA, W3LE, KB3FNM & Mary Lou, N3ZK, K3SGT, N3HKQ & Peg, W3WN, and a brief cameo appearance at the end of the morning (as some of us stood outside of The Beach House talking) of N3UE on his way to Gettysburg! (Yes, Mr. "Nay!" is still with us!) December conversation revolved around holiday parties, snow in CO, 40 meter propagation, kid's Christmas presents, dogs & puppies, senior citizens, calibration benchmarks, Santa and an FT-857D, 80/40 antennas, working satellites, WASHFest 2007, Hickory Telephone Company, web site names, timeshares, emergency communications. Verizon central switching offices & 9-11, SKN, the Santa Net, code speeds, the Breezeshooter's contests, 198 MPH on a motorcycle, and Pa QSO Party videos at www.n3sh.org. \*phew!\*

And that's just what made it into the notes... so imagine what you might be missing out on? Plan on joining us for the next club breakfast, on Saturday, January 27th, 8:00 AM at The Beach House, Library Road / Route 88 in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. See you there!

2007 Club Dues are due this month. The club can't function without your support — without you, there is no club! So don't put it off another moment, sit down and take care of your dues today! Don't forget that for your convenience, you can now pay your dues right now via PayPal on the club website!

Special Thanks, Again to Frank N3XI for hosting this year's Christmas/ Holiday Party at his banquet hall, the renovated St. James Place in the West End. All who attended had a great time, the facility is beautiful, and the food was excellent!

Also, thanks again (as always) to our Ways & Means chair, Carol KB3GMN, who did all the hard work of organizing the event, collecting the money, getting the Chinese Auction items (along with Jacqué N3ZEL), and basically making sure that the event came off without a hitch. Carol does this for almost all of our social events every year, makes it look easy, and never does get all the credit for it that she deserves... so thank you again for all your hard work!

Photos from the party can be found on Page 5 and a few other places in the newsletter... but as mentioned elsewhere, you'll find ALL of the photos submitted (uncropped and full size) over on the club web site at www.n3sh.org in our new photo galleries! Eventually, many past photos will be forwarded to Randy for the gallery, so you'll be able to see quite a bit of club history on-line!

Speaking of which, the club website was moved to a new provider as of the beginning of the year, primarily due to more space and better technical support available. You'll see some changes to the forums and other parts of the site as a result of this. And... if you'd like to have an e-mail address at n3sh.org, please contact Randy for details.

Don't forget that WASHFest 2007 is coming up at the end of next month! Steve W3SRL sometimes makes it look like there's nothing to it, but believe us, every year he puts a lot of work into our event. So start thinking about what you can do to help out the club and the hamfest this year... table setup, vendor set-up assistance, ticket sales, talk-in... whatever. Let Steve know what you can do, and we'll ensure that we have another great event in 2007! (Our twelfth? Already?)

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Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2007 Today! Membership Application on Page 11!

# Minutes, December 15th Meeting

Frank Bobro N3FB, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

The December meeting was the annual Christmas Party and held at James Centre in the West End. A great meal and pleasant conversations were enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

The last order of business for our president, Kevin N3HKQ, was to present the Kilowatt Award. This year's recipient was our new president, Randy N3ZK. Because the award is passed around each year, Kevin asked Dan KB3HVN, to create a plaque that the honoree could keep. These plaques were presented to Ron W3WN, and Randy.

The Chinese Auction was held next, congratulations to the winners.

- Home Safety Lights & Knife Set Dan KB3HVN
- Tool Belt Kevin N3HKQ
- One Year Subscription to World Radio Lori KB3GMU
- Work Apron and Screwdrivers Kevin N3HKQ
- Mail Box Paul KB3KOT
- Lawnmower Tune up Kits Dan KB3HVN
- Grill Paul KB3KOT
- Gift Certificate to Bed Bath and Beyond Dave N3DFK
- Gift Certificate to Giant Eagle Carol KB3GMN
- Hat and Scarf Dan KB3HVN
- Gift Certificate to Home Depot Our Host, Frank N3XI
- PA QSO Party Bonus Station Plaque Larry K3VX
- Ax Ritchie N3SBF

# Tower Fund: Year-End Update

Randy George N3ZK

For the last 15 months, Randy N3ZK and Paul NØVLR have spearheaded the club's efforts to raise money towards an Emergency Tower Trailer. This project will culminate in the club's purchase and operation of an emergency-use trailer mounted crank-up tower that can easily be taken to club events and emergency communications situations as the needs arise.

Field Day 2007 is just around the corner. If we want this trailer to make its Field Day debut, we need to complete this project over the next several months. This should be no problem, giving that we have the big ticket items already purchased.

### The project has three phases:

Phase I: Purchase a mobile Crank-up Tower (Phase Completed)

Phase II: Purchase a trailer for the tower (Phase Completed)

Phase III: Acquire Antennas / Accessories (Phase in Progress)

We are presently at the beginning of Phase III.

Where we stand right now, in terms of money raised from donations and plaque sales and other sources are as follows:

Tower Money Raised \$2400.00
 Trailer Money Raised \$965.26
 Antennas / Accessories Money Raised \$4.15

**What can you do?** Over the past several months, more and more club members have started to contribute to the Tower Trailer Fund. Some of which have donated more than once or on a monthly basis. This is great!

We are almost through the "Spending" phase of the entire project. What's left you ask? Antennas, accessories, Out Riggers, Temporary Guy wires, Batteries, Coax, Storage Boxes, etc... Some of these items, members may have lying around the shack. If you are not using them, you could donate them to the project. Most items we will have to purchase. If you have items you think could be useful for the project, just let Paul or Randy know. If not, donations are always welcome.

(Tower Trailer Continued on page 8)

# WASH Spotlight: Rogues Gallery?



Past and Present WASH Club President's at the 2006 Christmas Holiday Party: Back Row W3WH, N3HKQ, N3ZK; Front Row, NØVLR, W3WN

Photo courtesy of & @Copyright 2006, 2007 Paul Lusardi NØVLR

Every month we're going to feature a *WASH* club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the *WASH Spotlight*. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at editor at n3sh dot org

# Monthly WASH Breakfast

Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!

Join us this month at *The Beach House*, on Route 88 in Fiinleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach.Start time is about 8 AM until ???? Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, WASH members or not, amateurs or not!

# Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

2007 AB3ED K3VX KB3GMP KB3IFR KC4WTT K3WJL N3HKQ N3ZK W3BC W3RWS W3VFA W4ZE WA3JPP WB4GCS	2006 K3AIR K3EED (Cindy) K3HCR K3LGM K3SGT KB3FNM KB3FZU KB3GMN KB3GMU KB3HVN KB3HVN KB3KOT KB3MRT KB3NAF KB3NSG KB3NVL KB3NVL	KE7FD NØVLR NØWPV N2QIV N3AWF N3CZZ N3DFK N3IDH N3KFD N3QMV N3OVO N3RDV N3RHT N3SBF N3UE N3XI N3ZEL N3ZNI W3LE	W3RJM W3SRL W3WH W3WN W8LEV WA3RVD WA3WMB WA3YFQ WO3Z	WASH /MM KA3UPY WASH GA K3OL KB3IJX WASH NE NØPEU WASH NY KE3XB N3YPB WASH OH N8DPW WASH TX K3LGM WASH VI NP2JF	Silent Keys K3EED (George) KB3ENX KB3FQT N3FZ N3KEH N3OBD N3SKR N3SRC N3XFE W3ZLK
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Through January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007
List complied by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer



# WASH 2006 Christmas/Holiday Party at Frank's Place!







These photos all courtesy of & ©Copyright 2006, 2007 Kevin Smith N3HKQ









Above photos all courtesy of & ©Copyright 2006, 2007 Paul I Lusardi NØVLR

Below photos all courtesy of & ©Copyright 2006, 2007 Kevin F. DeRose N3KFD







# Announcing the Seventh Annual WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest

This January will mark the Seventh Annual *WASH* 2 Meter Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting!

Remember: In response to input from our participants, and in view of the growing popularity of radios like the Ten-Tec 6N2, IC-706 & FT-100, the contest will NOT only be an FM contest but also open to SSB, and CW! (Digital? Maybe next year!)

Everyone who participated in it the last four years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 13<sup>th</sup>!

**Date & Times**: Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 14<sup>th</sup> 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

### Objectives:

- · To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band

- FM: FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every 15 kHz, from 146.535 to 146.595 MHz, and 147.520 to 147.580 MHz. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 is not to be used. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.
- CW: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)
- SSB: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

Note: Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHZ 15 minutes after the hour Listen for SSB QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 50 watts output. No external amplifiers.

**Exchange**: Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code, and whether or not you are a Member of *WASH* or a Club Station.

For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code

Example 1: "N3ZCG from N3 ZEL, please copy Number 3, 15347, Member." Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801, Non-Member" Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137, Club Station"

Contacts: Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station once per mode, and once per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

**Disqualification**: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels 146.52 MHz and below.
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, established nets, and QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The contest committee reserves the right to verify QSO's.
   QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log
   without penalty, especially if the committee is unable to obtain
   log information for verification.

Scoring: Each Contact, non-WASH Member: 1 point

WASH Member: 2 points

(\*) Club Stations: 3 Points

Multipliers: Number of different ZIP Codes
Power: Stations running 10 watts or less:

Stations running over 10 watts:

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

(\*) "Club Stations" for the purposes of the contest are those calls assigned by the FCC or Industry Canada or equivalent to bona-fide Amateur Radio Clubs. They include N3SH, WA3SH, NP2SH, WA3COM, W3KWH, N3GC, W3PIE, K3CR, W3YA, K3HKK, W3YI, W3VC, W3PGH, W3EXW, K3MJW, NY3EC, W1AW, etc. The call MUST be assigned as a Club Call to be eligible. [In other words, you can't just claim to be a "club" and pick a call, or use the call of a club member; the call must be assigned as a club call]

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the *WASH* web site, www.n3sh.org, no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Submit Log Sheets::** Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest

c/o Ron Notarius W3WN 3395 Rosewood Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15234-2546

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results. Entry Deadline: February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a raffle ticket to *WASH*Fest 2007 on February 25<sup>th</sup>

## **Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:**

After the first year of the contest, we found that the limited number of frequencies suggested in the rules were insufficient for the activity level. In subsequent years, we permitted use of any recognized simplex frequency, as per the ARRL recommended guidelines published in the annual ARRL Repeater Directory and other sources, above 146.520 MHz.

You will note that many of these frequencies are listed as potential dual use, with a "local option" for them to be used for repeater inputs and outputs.

We have been notified that the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council (WPRC) has issued their own "local" band plan for the 2 meter band, and has elected to withdraw most or all of these dual-use or optional-use frequencies in favor of their being assigned to FM repeaters, primarily those on 1 MHz splits. Although we have not heard of interference problems with any repeater (with ONE exception – the contest participant was notified of interference and immediately moved), good amateur practice requires us to take note of the situation and the potential for interference problems in some parts of Western Pennsylvania where these repeaters exist.

The following list of recommended frequencies are recognized as standard simplex channels and should not suffer from co-channel problems with any existing repeaters:

146.535 MHz 147.525 MHz 146.550 MHz 147.540 MHz 146.565 MHz 147.555 MHz 146.580 MHz 147.570 MHz 146.595 MHz

The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, may not be used. To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.

To be clear, we have no objection to contest participants operating on additional recognized FM "optional" simplex frequencies above 146.520 MHz. Participants who do so run the risk of potential interference with repeaters sharing these frequencies, and therefore do so at their own risk. Again, as per the rules of the contest, if you operate on these frequencies and are notified of actual interference, please exercise good amateur practice and QSY.

We also recognize that the WPRC may continue to be less than happy with this stance. We point out to them that the amateur spectrum is a shared resource. And frankly, if push came to shove, the legality of their "withdrawing" of the frequencies from use by the general amateur population of WPA might be an interesting question before the FCC. (To say nothing of the fact that this change in band plan is probably something most WPA amateurs are unaware of, but that's another story).

Bottom line: Enjoy the contest, but do so responsibly.

# The Other Shoe Drops: FCC Eliminates Code Testing

Ron Notarius W3WN

Well, we knew it was going to happen... the only question was when. And on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the FCC announced that in the matter of WT Dockets 04-140 and 05-235, they were eliminating all testing of Morse Code as part of the examination to obtain an Amateur Radio License, effective 30 days after publication of the new rules in the Federal Register. (Complete text of the announcement is in the "FCC News" column on Page 9)

In many ways this was a sad day as well as historic, as the Amateur Radio Service is very likely the last communications service on the planet still using the International Morse Code on a regular, extensive basis.

On a personal note, I must admit to being less than happy with the manner in which the FCC handled these dockets, the reasons given for completely eliminating all code tests across the board [I would argue that the Amateur Extra class license, which is supposed to be the "expert" level of amateur radio licensing, should still require a code test — how can you be an expert and not know code, at least so long as we still use it?], and many other small facets of the decision and the decision making process. However, that's now all water under the dam, or over the bridge, or wherever it is that the water goes, and to continue to harp on it starts to sound like sour grapes.

Bottom line: It's done. Now what?

First, a few practical matters:

- The rules changes do not become effective until 30 days after they are published in the Federal Register, which as of deadline hasn't happened yet. Word from the FCC as of deadline is that the effective date will probably be sometime in late February to mid March, so until then, nothing changes.
- No new privileges are granted to any existing license class as a result of this change; of course, we did have the reshuffling of some of the phone and data sub-bands a few months back, but those changes are not directly affected by this. However, as the FCC notes in their press release, the existing flavors of the Technician class license (like Tech Plus) are now all one: Technician, with the same HF rights as the existing Tech w/HF licensees. So the "no code" Techs get HF. That's it.
- Most importantly, CW is not going away. All that the rules changes affect are Morse licensing, not Morse operating. If you enjoy operating CW, please, continue to do so... and there's nothing to stop you from encouraging others to learn it and use it, whether it's a license requirement or not!

Now, what does this mean for the Amateur Radio community?

- We now have a virtually unprecedented opportunity to try and attract new potential amateurs to the service. Let's face it, many thought of Morse as an impediment to getting a license. Right or wrong, that's now gone. So while many may decry that licensing is "dumbed down" because it has been made easier by elimination of Element 1 we also have the opportunity to turn this around and show potential amateurs that a license is now in reach!
- But we can't stop there. Once we market ourselves and this rules change and attract new amateurs, it's up to us to help teach and train them. Getting the license is only the first step. It's up to us to show them the ropes, lend them a hand, get them on the air and involved. Complain all you want about the foul mouths on 20 and 75 meter phone if we don't want more like them, it's up to us to train new amateurs right in the first place. Be positive. Remember: No matter how or when licensed, or what elements they took, a ham is a ham. It's not important that they took a code test, or traveled to an FCC office, or wrote out schematics from memory by hand ('up hill, barefoot, in the snow, both ways'). It's important that they had the interest and desire and got their license. Now it's up to us to stoke that interest and keep them active!
- Naturally, this means get them to join a club. Our club, of course, if they live anywhere in or near the South Hills but if they don't (like an out of state relative, for example), their local club. And not just join, but get active in it. Ask questions, get involved you know the drill. The worst thing you can do with a new ham of any license class is have them sit through a dull business meeting, exclude them from out-of-meeting activities, talk down to them because they weren't licensed like you were... and if you do all that, why are you surprised that they didn't come back or stay active?

• And try to get the interested in joining the ARRL. It is our only true, general purpose national organization. Is it perfect? No, and it's made mistakes in the past. Still, it is the only game in town, and just as important, it is a tremendous resource of information, teaching and training material, and other sorts of help and assistance. The League is only as strong as it's members, and it's stronger with us than without us. (And if you don't like something

the League is doing or has done, as a member, you can talk to your elected Directors and convince them to do something about that — something that you can't do as a non-member)

We as licensed amateurs have been handed a tremendous, unique opportunity to expand our ranks (both as a club and as a service) as never before, and possibly as never again. If the Amateur Radio Service is to survive, it's up to each of us to take this opportunity and make the most of it.

The Code Test is gone. Mourn it's passing if you will, praise it if you must. Then move on and do something positive with (out) it!





More Party Photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2006, 2007 Kevin F. DeRose N3KFD



# Wanna Buy a Country?

Agence France-Presse, courtesy of Jim Reisert AD1C

London, January  $8^{th}$  — A former World War II fort in the North Sea, which was settled 40 years ago and declared a state with its own self-proclaimed royal family, is up for sale.

The tiny Principality of Sealand (**1S**), which began life as Roughs Tower in 1941, is a 550 sq m steel platform perched on two concrete towers 11 km off the coast of Harwich, eastern England.

It is accessible only by helicopter and boat but according to its owners, who want offers of eight digits or over, boasts uninterrupted sea views, guarantees complete privacy and is a tax haven.

"We have owned the island for 40 years now and my father is 85," Prince Michael of Sealand was quoted as saying by The Times today.

"Perhaps it is time for some rejuvenation. Astronomical figures have been mentioned but we will just see what comes forward."

Although its nation status is disputed, Sealand boasts a military past like any other country, defending its sovereignty from outside threats.

Editor's Note: Although there have been a handful of Amateur Radio operations from Sealand over the years, under the unofficial 1S prefix, it is not presently recognized by the ARRL as a DXCC Entity

# N7NG Resigns from ARRL HQ

On Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006, much to my regret, I delivered a letter of resignation to David Sumner, K1ZZ. Such an early departure had not been my plan but had become necessary.

On Friday, in a meeting with Dave and Mr. Harold Kramer, ARRL Chief Operating Officer (COO), I made it clear, when asked, that my resignation was in no way a retirement. I also conveyed that it did not indicate any fundamental differences with ARRL outside of the jurisdiction of Mr. Kramer. I offered them the opportunity to release information about my resignation, but Mr. Kramer could send only a terse two-line message, and then only to the HQ Staff and the closed reflector of the ARRL Officers, Directors and Vice Directors, hence this message.

All in all, it's been a fun six and one-half years. The League has been a great place to work, and I'd do all but the last 22 months over again. I thank all of you around the World for your great support. In particular, I offer special thanks our volunteers - advisory committee members, log checkers and advisors. I also urge all of you to support the ARRL financially.

Be sure to tell them what you want, though – they don't always ask. I hope to regenerate an active interest in Ham Radio back in Wyoming. Maybe there'll be another DXpedition or two as well, and look for N7NG - Jackson Hole - to be an active Wyoming contributor to Logbook of the World as long as it's in business.

- Wayne Mills N7NG

Editor's Note: Wayne had been the Membership Services Director for ARRL. DXCC and Contests fell under his jurisdiction.

(Tower Trailer Continued from page 4)

**How you can help:** There are several ways you can help finish Phase III right now:

- Renew your dues for 2007, and include an extra few dollars towards the tower (just leave a note to Mark telling him how to apply the extra funds).
- Purchase a wooden call plaque from Randy. They can now be ordered on-line at the new club web site, www.n3sh.org
- Make a direct donation via PayPal at the club web site
- Drop a check in the mail, or bring one with you to the next club meeting, specifically marked as tower trailer donation

We have had a significant amount of money donated by several generous corporations. Paul and especially Randy have worked very hard to raise these funds. Now the time has come to show that we as a group support this effort too. If you agree, don't put it off another moment. Please do your part to help out!

# **DX News Briefs**

The **XT2C** Dxpedition is now QRV through 20 January. QSL via F9IE. Up to date information can be found on their web site at http://xt2c.free.fr — F5NQL

The **S21 Banladesh 2007 Dxpedition** should be QRV through 16 January as **S21XA**. Their aim is to give a new entity to the maximum number of stations, and they plan to have 3 stations QRV at all times. QSL via EA3BT. Further information and updates will be available at: http://www.ea3bt.com/s21xa.htm — OPDX #792

The upcoming **VU7RG** team has been granted special permission to operate on 30 meters, for the first time ever from India. They have also permission to operate from Minicoy Island, AS-106, alleged to be the rarest IOTA group in Asia. This is in addition to their operation from the AS-011 IOTA group. They plan to be QRV on 16 January. Operators will ID as VU7RG / their personal call. More information at <a href="http://vu7.in">http://vu7.in</a> — DL4KQ

Members of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association (PARA) and a group of JA operators will be active as **DXØJP** from the Kalayaan Island Group (AS-051), Philippines, 3—13 February. QSL via JA1HGY. EME QSO only via JA1RJU. More info at http://www.dxcom.jp/dxØjp — OPDX #792

SP6NVK has completed a four year project called the **Internet Ham Atlas**, which contains information on all 337 DXCC entities. Included are over 1100 maps and 3000 pictures. It is located at <a href="https://www.hamatlas.eu">www.hamatlas.eu</a> — SP6NVK, QRZ.COM, 425DX818, OPDX792

K3PD has announced that he is no longer the manager for any Georgian stations. **4L4BBC** and **4LØABC** are direct only (no bureau cards); **4LØG**, **4LØHQ** and **4L2M** QSL direct via UA9LP — K3PD

**60ØJT** is currently in Western Sudan near the Chad border. He expects his stay may not last much longer, and plans to QSL all cards (direct or via the bureau) upon his return to Canada. All bureau cards are in storage but will be answered — VA6MJT, VE6AX

VE3XN expects to get the **ZL8RI** cards from the printer by the end of January. They should be in the mail starting in mid-February — VE3IRF

**ZK3DX**, who has been QRV primarily on 40 CW since 16 September, is a pirate; the call has not been issued, and no amateur is known to be operating on the islands he alleges to be on. —ZL1BYA, ZL2RR

Do **not** QSL **C56JHF** via SMØJHF. Henryk "specifically requests that QSL cards not be sent to him, he will QSL via the bureau" — WD4ELG

Want to operate from **A22 Botswanna** this summer? Frosty K5LBU is looking for operators to join him on his annual African Dxpedition. There is also a possibility that they may be QRV from **7P8 Lesotho** instead or in addition. Contact Frosty at frosty1@pdq.net for more information — K5LBU

# **QSL Routes**

3V6T via YT1AD - W2AY 3V8DLH via DJ3FK — RA3SL 3Y5X via LA6VM - KR1S 4JØAUM via UA3FDX — RA3SL 5X1GS via WB2YQH — F1JKJ 7P8JF via DL7JAN — K3WI 9H3LEO via IK1PMR - W2IRT B1Z via EA7FTR — K3WI C56R via OH3BHL — KA2BZS CT9L via DJ6QT — KE3D D2DX via OH2BAD — W2IRT FK8GM via WB2RAJ — W2IRT GTØSTH via G4DIY - N5OK H44V via JA1PBV - JJ1BDX/3 J28JA via F5JFU — W2IRT HKØGU via DL7VOG - W2IRT LZØA via LZ2UU — K9MM ST2A via T93Y — T93Y T31T via SM6CAS - N7YA T98T via T98U — NA2P

TA3DD via K3PD — F1JKJ TR8CR via F6AJA — RA3SL TT8PK via F4EGS — K3WI TY5LEO via IL1PMR — WØVX TY5ZR via IK2IQD — W2AY TZ5A via G3SXW — VK1AA TZ6LV via KY7M — N5OK TZ6MF via KC7V — W2AY TZ6NS via AA7A — KZ2I V31JP via KA9WON — RA3SL V63JQ via JA1KJW — K3WI VK9CGG via WØYG — N5OK VP2MDY via WA7NB — SV1DPI VP8LGT via VP8ON — F1JKJ XF4DL via DL9NDS — JJ1BDX/3 XU7ADX via XW2A — W2IRT XW3DT via RK3DT — N5OK YN2EJ via K5LBU — K3WI Z3ØM via Z36W — RA3SL ZD9ATN via IZØCKJ — W2IRT

Thanks to the NJDXA *DX News* & *DX Chat* Reflectors, the *DX-QSL* Reflector, 425 *DX News*, *OPDX News*, *Diamond DX Club News*, *ICPO Bulletin*, & *ARRL DX Bulletin* for our *DX News* information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR /*The Daily DX* for confirmations & additional information.



# WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the *WASH*Rag. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the *WASH*Rag or the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

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# **FCC News**

ARRL Web Extra & ARRL Letter, courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 15 th, 2006 — Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration (Order) that modifies the rules for the Amateur Radio Service by revising the examination requirements for obtaining a General Class or Amateur Extra Class amateur radio operator license and revising the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees. In addition, the Order resolves a petition filed by the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL) for partial reconsideration of an FCC Order on amateur service rules released on October 10, 2006.

The current amateur service operator license structure contains three classes of amateur radio operator licenses: Technician Class, General Class, and

Amateur Extra Class. General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees are permitted to operate in Amateur bands below 30 MHz, while the introductory Technician Class licensees are only permitted to operate in bands above 30 MHz. Prior to today's action, the FCC, in accordance with international radio regulations, required applicants for General Class and Amateur Extra Class operator licenses



to pass a five words-per-minute Morse code examination. Today's Order eliminates that requirement for General and Amateur Extra licensees. This change reflects revisions to international radio regulations made at the International Telecommunication Union's 2003 World Radio Conference (WRC-03), which authorized each country to determine whether to require that individuals demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an amateur radio license with transmitting privileges on frequencies below 30 MHz. This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current amateur radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of amateur radio.

Today's Order also revises the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees by eliminating a disparity in the operating privileges for the Technician Class and Technician Plus Class licensees. Technician Class licensees are authorized operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz. The Technician Plus Class license, which is an operator license class that existed prior the FCC's simplification of the amateur license structure in 1999 and was grandfathered after that time, authorized operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz, as well as frequency segments in four HF bands (below 30 MHz) after the successful completion of a Morse code examination. With today's elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician Class licensees and Technician Plus Class licensees should not be retained. Therefore, the FCC, in today's action, afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges.

Finally, today's Order resolved a petition filed by the ARRL for partial reconsideration of an FCC Order released on October 10, 2006 (FCC 06-149). In this Order, the FCC authorized amateur stations to transmit voice communications on additional frequencies in certain amateur service bands, including the 75 meter (m) band, which is authorized only for certain wideband voice and image communications. The ARRL argued that the 75 m band should not have been expanded below 3635 kHz, in order to protect automatically controlled digital stations operating in the 3620-3635 kHz portion of the 80 m band. The FCC concluded that these stations can be protected by providing alternate spectrum in the 3585-3600 kHz frequency segment.

The FCC's Philadelphia Field Office has issued a formal *Notice of Violation* (*NoV*) to a Pennsylvania radio amateur for failure to identify in a timely manner. The Commission released the *NoV* to Andrew Ban, KB3GRK, of Feasterville, on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

The notice says that on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006, an agent of the FCC's Philadelphia office monitored KB3GRK's transmissions on 439.850 MHz and observed that the operator failed to identify for nearly one hour in one instance and for more than 20 minutes in the second.

§97.119(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules requires stations to identify "at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication."

The FCC has advised Ban that he must submit within 20 days a written statement addressing the alleged violations and action taken to preclude recurrence.

The issuance of an *NoV* appears to be a departure from the FCC Enforcement Bureau's typical practice of addressing such alleged infractions with an advisory letter rather than a formal notice.



# WASHfest 2007

### The South Hills Hamfest

Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Sunday, February 25 <sup>th</sup>, 2007 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!) Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall 3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL



(800) 545-8881

Breakfast & Lunch provided by Jack's Catering of Peters Township

FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES of Canonsburg, PA

# MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to play to WIN!

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: (to be announced) 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: (to be announced) 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: (to be announced)

Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For reservations, or information, Contact:

Steve Lane, W3SRL at (412) 341-1043 or Bill Hill, W3WH at (724) 746-1776 E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

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Address:		Phone: (	)
City:	State: Zip:		
Call Sign:			Please make all checks payable to:
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# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.





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Signature:		_	Amount Enclosed: \$			

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.

The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.

Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer 1120 McKnight Drive Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



# Join the American Radio Relay League or Renew Your Membership through the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.



Members of the Wireless Association of South Hills can start a new membership or renew an existing membership in the American Radio Relay League, the National Organization of Radio Amateurs, through the club. Benefits for you: Joining and participating in everything the League has to offer, including a QST subscription. Benefits for the club: A few more shekels for our coffers.

Just fill out the form below, include a check or money order made out to WASH/ARRL, and return all to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer 1120 McKnight Drive Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456

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# Inside This Issue:

this & much more... waiting for 2 Meter Simplex Contest This Month! The FCC Drops Morse Code Testing More Pictures from the Christmas, ou right inside these pages!!! WASHFest 2007 Is Coming! Holiday Party!



# Having a Great Time at St. James Place!

Thanks again to Frank N3XI for hosting this year's WASH Christmas/Holiday Party at the St. James Place Banquet Hall in the West End. More Party Pictures on Page 5... and even more Party Pictures at the club web site at www.n3sh.org!

Photo courtesy of & Copyright ©2006, 2007 Kevin F. DeRose N3KFD

# The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor 3395 Rosewood Drive Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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